

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 037585
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 SCS-03 L-03 SCA-01 SS-15 SSO-00
INR-07 INRE-00 H-01 PRS-01 /044 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/B - MR. PACE:LEE
APPROVED BY ARA - MR. LUERS
-/NM - MR. FIELDS (DRAFT)
ARA - MR. MOSKOWITZ (DRAFT)
SCA/SCS - MR. STEVENS (INFO)
-----181638 096838 /40
O 181556Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, BL

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA

REF: LA PAZ 1053

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS CABLE IS TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HERE AFFECTING US CITIZEN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA. WE ALSO WISH TO CONGRATULATE YOU PERSONALLY, AND ALL OF YOUR STAFF, FOR THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION RECEIVED BY THE MOSKOWITZ TEAM DURING ITS RECENT VISIT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ALL ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION EXERTED THEMSELVES TO THE FULLEST TO MAKE THIS TEAM EFFORT A SUCCESS. SPECIAL THANKS GO TO CONSULAR OFFICERS ED MILBURN AND BOB
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PAGE 02 STATE 037585

BLOHM, AS WELL AS TO CONAGENT MARILYN MCKENNEY IN SANTA CRUZ.

2. DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7-11, WE HOSTED A DELEGATION OF PARENTS AND RELATIVES REPRESENTING OVER TWENTY AMERICAN PRISONERS. IN THE COURSE OF THEIR STAY IN WASHINGTON, THE DELEGATION HELD A PUBLIC MEETING IN THE RAYBURN

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, MET FREQUENTLY WITH DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL (INCLUDING A FEBRUARY 11 MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE TODMAN), HOSTED A PRESS CONFERENCE AND TALKED WITH A STAFF ASSISTANT TO VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE.

IN ADDITION, THE DELEGATION HELD SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR CRESPO, INCLUDING A BRIEF SESSION ON FEBRUARY 11 ATTENDED BY SAM MOSKOWITZ AND BOB PACE. IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PARENTS, TEAM MEMBERS MOSKOWITZ, FIELDS AND BALDWIN PROVIDED A FRANK AND SYMPATHETIC APPRAISAL OF THE PHYSICAL AND LEGAL SITUATION OF THE PRISONERS; THE TEAM ALSO DELIVERED PERSONAL MESSAGES AND MAIL FROM INDIVIDUAL PRISONERS. IN TURN, THE PARENTS MADE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO PIN DOWN THE TEAM ON THE TIME FRAME FOR MININTERIOR PEREDA'S REVIEW, THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THAT REVIEW AND THE NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO MIGHT BE RELEASED. THE TEAM STATED THAT PEREDA HAS PLEDGED TO REVIEW

ALL CASES WITHIN ONE MONTH, AFTER WHICH SOME PRISONERS MAY BE RELEASED, WHILE THE CASES OF OTHERS WILL BE REMANDED TO THE JUDICIARY FOR EXPEDITED HANDLING UNDER THE NEW LAW. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ALSO INFORMED THE PARENTS THAT EMBASSY LA PAZ WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH GOB OFFICIALS, TO ENSURE THAT THIS REVIEW DOES TAKE PLACE. THE PARENTS EXPRESSED THEIR PLEASURE AT THE EFFORTS TO DATE OF THE TEAM, DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY LA PAZ TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM, BUT NOTED THEIR INTENTION TO CONTINUE PRESSING FOR THE FREEING OF ALL US CITIZENS ARRESTED UNDER THE FORMER 1973 NARCOTICS LAW.

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PAGE 03 STATE 037585

3. IN COMING DAYS, TEAM MEMBERS MOSKOWITZ AND FIELDS WILL DRAFT THEIR REPORT ON THE TEAM'S VISIT TO BOLIVIA. IN ADDITION, PROFESSOR GORDON BALDWIN HAS PROMISED US A SEPARATE REPORT, WHICH WILL INCLUDE HIS VIEWS ON INDIVIDUAL PRISONER CASES. DRAFT COPIES OF THESE REPORTS WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU FOR YOUR COMMENT PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT IN FINAL FORM. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ALSO PLAN TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH INDIVIDUAL PARENTS, INTERESTED CONGRESSIONAL STAFFS, MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND THE BOLIVIAN EMBASSY (FOLLOWING UP ON THE PARENTS APPEAL FOR A GENERAL PARDON OF ALL PRISONERS ARRESTED PRIOR TO DECEMBER 17, 1976.) ARTICLES ON THE PRISONERS APPEARED IN THE WASHINGTON STAR ON FEBRUARY 14 AND THE WASHINGTON POST ON FEBRUARY 16; BOTH WERE SENT TO YOU VIA WIRELESS FILE. WE FIND THESE ARTICLES TO BE GENERALLY BALANCED AND OBJECTIVE.

4. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE EMBASSY WILL USE ALL APPRO-

PRIATE MEANS TO BRING THIS ISSUE TO THE CONTINUING ATTENTION OF THE GOB. SPECIFICALLY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU PLAN TO EXPLORE THE ISSUE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ADRIAZOLA DURING YOUR DINNER LATER THIS WEEK. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE PROBABLE RELEASE OF SOME PRISONERS WITHIN COMING WEEKS, THE

EMBASSY MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER WAYS OF EXPEDITING THE DEPARTURE OF THESE US CITIZENS WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION, PLANE TICKETS, HEALTH CARDS, ETC. FOR OUR PURPOSES HERE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE PROMPT NOTIFICATION OF ANY IMMINENT PRISONER RELEASES, VIA A PHONE CALL TO THE BOLIVIA DESK OR NIACT IMMEDIATE CABLE. BOB PACE, LOU FIELDS AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE CLOSE TIES WITH INDIVIDUAL PRISONER FAMILIES WILL THEN PERSONALLY CONTACT RELATIVES OF THOSE PRISONERS WHO ARE TO BE RELEASED. WE FEEL THAT THIS CONTINUING PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE FAMILIES IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESSFUL HANDLING OF THE DELICATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 037585

PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT OF THIS ISSUE.

5. WE LOOK FORWARD TO A CONTINUATION OF THE EMBASSY'S EXCELLENT AND TIMELY REPORTING ON THE PRISONERS ISSUE.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS WELFARE, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE037585
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MR. PACE:LEE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770058-1178
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770226/aaaaaxep.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6a917cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 77 LA PAZ 1053
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3279230
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA
TAGS: CASC, BL, US
To: LA PAZ
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6a917cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009